

# The East Anglian.

DECEMBER, 1866.

## NOTES.

THE YEOMEN FAMILIES OF NORFOLK.—NO. 2 (VOL. II, p. 263).

### THAXTER, of Bassingham, &c.

This family of yeomen has been settled at Bassingham certainly for nearly five centuries, *John Thaxter*, a tenant of the manor of Thurgarton cum Bassingham in 18 Richard II (1395) being mentioned on the Court Rolls of the manor for that date.

I. *Nicholas Thaxter*, of Thurgarton cum Bassingham, by his will dated 2nd June, 1515, after directing his body to be buried in the church-yard of Thurgarton, gave to the high altar there 20*d.*, to the repa'con, 13*s. 4d.*, to the church of South Reppis, 6*s. 8d.*, to the high altar there, 12*d.*, to the churches of Bradfield, North Reppis, and Gymyngham, 40*d.*, 20*d.*, and 20*d.* respectively, to the churches of Basyngham and Thurgarton, 1 combe of malt and 2 bushells of wheat each, and to the church of Alburgh, 3 bushells of malt. He mentions his wife *Isabell* and his children.

1. *John Thaxter* (hereafter mentioned), to whom he gave "all my shopp gere, oon hors a sorrel, & a grett ketill, after the deceasse of my wiffe."

2. *Richard Thaxter*, to whom he gave "vjs. viij*d.*, and a nete of ii*j* yere of age."

3. *Robert Thaxter*, to whom he gave "vjs. viij*d.* whan he come to the age of xv*j* yeres."

4. *Alis Thaxter*, to whom he gave vjs. viij*d.*

5. Another daughter, to whom he gave iijs. iiiij*d.*

His will was proved at Metton, on the 24th July 1515.

II. *John Thaxter* his son, was, in 1520 (11 Henry VIII), a tenant of the manor of Thurgarton cum Bassingham. He was, probably, father of

III. *William Thaxter*, of Bassingham, Blacksmith, who was of that place in 1573. In 1584, he was (with Edmund Thaxter, whom I believe to have been his brother\*) a juror of the manor of Thurgarton cum Bassingham. His will is dated 25th March, 1607, and was proved on the 6th June, 1608. He thereby gave to his son Lawrence, land in Thurgarton Field,

\* This Edmund Thaxter was the ancestor of another family of Thaxters, of Bassingham, whose pedigree I will give in a separate paper.

Bassingham, and North Wood, Barningham. By his wife *Margaret* who survived him, and was buried either on 4th May, 1625, or 11th April, 1631 (on both of which days a Margaret Thaxter, widow, of Bassingham, was buried) he had

1. *Lawrence Thaxter*, baptized 10th May, 1575, was a juror of Bassingham 16 Jas. I (1619), when he held land of that manor.

He is, probably, identical with *Lawrence Thaxter*, of Burrough, near Aylsham, whose will (dated 2nd April, 1646) was proved in the Consistory 24th January, 1648, in which will he mentions his daughter *Joan*, the wife of James Fraser, and a daughter who married Robert Yaxlie, and had a son Lawrence Yaxlie, to whom he leaves a house in Wickmere.

2. *William Thaxter* (of whom hereafter) baptized 4th August, 1586.

3. *Johan Thaxter*, who was buried 22nd March, 1573.

4. *Margaret Thaxter*, baptized 29th September, 1577, and buried 20th May, 1589.

5. *Amy Thaxter*, baptized 22nd October, and buried 19th November, 1578.

6. *Mary Thaxter*, baptized in 1570. By her father's will she was to have the use of a chamber in his house after his decease, until marriage, with liberty "freely to com & go to & from the fyre of my said wife." She married in 1616, John Toley.

7. *Barbara Thaxter*, mentioned in her father's will.

8. *Phillis Thaxter*, baptized 20th October, 1582.

IV. *William Thaxter*, of Bassingham, blacksmith, took by his father's will £20, and his shop tools belonging to his occupation of blacksmith.

His will is dated 19th May, 1649. He therein describes himself as being feeble and weak in body, but sound in mind, and directs his body to be buried in the churchyard of Bassingham. He gives free and bond lands in Bassingham to his wife *Dorothy*, the daughter of Nicholas Makefield,\* by Margaret his wife (daughter of John Mertens and Ellen Hawpe) whom he married at Bassingham, in 1627, for her life, remainder to his son Lawrence, and 2½ acres of land at Thurgarton to his wife for ever, 14 acres at Thurgarton charged with certain legacies, to Laurence, if he should attain 21, remainder to his (testator's) son Thomas. He died in 1649. His will was proved 16 April, 1650. By his wife, above named, he had issue

1. *Laurence Thaxter*, baptized 1629, vix: 1649, mentioned above as taking his father's land at Bassingham and Thurgarton.

2. *Thomas Thaxter*, baptized 1632, vix: 1649, mentioned above. He also took a legacy of £30.

3. *William Thaxter* (of whom hereafter)

4. *Nicholas Thaxter*, baptized 23rd March, and buried 5th April, 1648.

5. *Margaret Thaxter*, baptized 1637, buried 1638.

6. *Margaret Thaxter*, baptized 1639, vix: 1649 (buried 1706?)

7. *Barbara Thaxter*, baptized 1642, vix: 1649.

8. *Isidora Thaxter*, baptized 1649.

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\* *Vel* Makefield or Mekylfield.

V. *William Thaxter* the elder, of Bassingham, ploughwright, was baptized in 1635. He married *Ursula* ..... (who died 1673.) His will is dated 17th June, 1700 (in which year he died), and was proved 30th May, 1702. He therein mentions his lands at Bassingham and Thurgarton, which he gives to his son William. By his wife Ursula, he had issue.

1. *William Thaxter*, baptized 1670 (of whom hereafter.)
2. *Edmond Thaxter*, baptized 1673, who, probably, died young, as he is not mentioned in his father's will.
3. *Ursula Thaxter*, baptized and buried 1666.
4. *Mary Thaxter*, baptized 1669. At the time her father made his will (1700) she was married to a Mr. Cawson.
5. *Alice Thaxter*, baptized — married John Harmer, the son of Thomas Harmer, and vix : 1700.

VI. *William Thaxter*, of Bassingham, who was baptized 1670, married *Lydia* .... (who died in 1734.) He died the same year as his wife, having had issue

1. *William Thaxter*, of Bassingham, baptized 1697. He died in 1768, s<sup>t</sup> 70, having had issue by his wife Mary (who died in 1792)

1. *William Thaxter*, of Matlaske, baptized 1733, ob. 1811, by his wife, who died in 1797, had issue
  - (a) *Isidora Thaxter*, baptized 1760.
  - (b) *Anne Thaxter*, baptized 1762.
2. *Peter Thaxter*, baptized 1738, buried 27th December, 1742.
3. *Robert Thaxter*, baptized 1740, and died inn. 1810.
4. *Mary Thaxter*, baptized 1736.
5. *Isidora Thaxter*, baptized 1743.

2. *Edmond Thaxter*, baptized 1702.
3. *Nicholas Thaxter*, baptized 27th December, 1702 (of whom hereafter.)

4. *John Thaxter*, baptized 1706 (buried 1789 ?)
5. *Richard Thaxter*, baptized 1712, married Martha Newman in 1735.
6. *Alice Thaxter*, baptized 1692, at North Walsham.
7. *Lydia Thaxter*, baptized 1694, and probably died an infant.
8. *Anne Thaxter*, baptized 1695.
9. *Mary Thaxter*, baptized 1695 (ob. infans ?)
10. *Mary Thaxter*, baptized 1700.
11. *Sarah Thaxter*, baptized 1710, married Gilbert Leigh, in 1743-4.
12. *Lydia Thaxter*, baptized 1714.

VII. *Nicholas Thaxter*, of Bassingham, baptized 27th December, 1702, died 1756, having had issue by his wife *Frances*, the daughter of Robert Youngman, of East Beckham, by Mary Townshend, of Gresham, whom he married in 1733.

1. *Nicholas Thaxter*, who died 1785, having had issue by his wife *Mary* (who died 1780)
  1. *Robert*, baptized 1769.
  2. *William*, baptized 1777.
  3. *William*, baptized 1780, ob. 1781.
  4. *Mary*, baptized 1771, and died same year.

5. *Anne*, baptized 1773.
6. *Mary*, baptized 1776, and died same year.
2. *Robert Thaxter*, baptized 1738, who had by his wife Anne
  1. *Christopher*, baptized 1770.
  2. *Isidora*, baptized 1772.
3. *Mary Thaxter*, baptized 1735.
4. *Margaret Thaxter*, baptized 1736.
5. *Anne Thaxter*, baptized 1740, buried same year.
6. *Hannah Thaxter* (of whom hereafter.)

VIII. *Hannah Thaxter*, baptized 15th February, 1742, at Bassingham, married on the 19th May, 1766, James Rye, at Baconsthorpe, and died on the 25th November, 1816, having had issue by him (*i. a.*)

- IX. *Edward Rye*, of Chelsea, the father of
- X. *Edward Rye*, of Chelsea, the father of (*i. a.*)
- XI. *Edward Caldwell Rye*, of Chelsea, and

*Chelsea.*

WALTER RYE.

A LIST OF BOOKS CONTAINING INDEXES TO FAMILY HISTORIES AND PEDIGREES.

The difficulty of tracing a pedigree is well known to Genealogists well versed in the class of books in which genealogies are to be found. How much more difficult is the task to those unacquainted with the works which treat chiefly of Genealogy! The following list of books which are altogether or in part devoted to giving references to pedigrees, may be found useful by persons desirous of tracing their descent, but unable to do so, because they are at a loss to know what books should be consulted as guides to the sources whence such pedigrees may be drawn.—G. W. M.

1. *Bibliotheca Heraldica Magnæ Britanniae*. By Thomas Moule. London, 1822.

This work contains the titles of most of the family histories published before 1822, and has "a supplement enumerating the principal foreign genealogical works."

2. *The Heraldic Calendar*: a list of the Nobility and Gentry whose arms are registered, and pedigrees recorded in the Heralds' Office, in Ireland. By William Skey, A.M., F.S.A. Dublin, 1846.

3. *An Index to the Pedigrees and Arms contained in the Heralds' Visitations, and other genealogical MSS. in the British Museum*. By R. Sims. London, 1849.

4. *A List of Family Histories, Peerage Claims, &c., &c.* See a Manual for the Genealogist, Topographer, Antiquary, and Legal Professor. By Richard Sims. London, 1856, pp. 242-279.

5. *An Index to printed Pedigrees contained in County and Local Histories, and in the more important Genealogical Collections*. By Charles Bridger. London, 1866.

6. *An Index to the Pedigrees contained in the printed Heralds' Visitations, &c., &c.* By George W. Marshall, LL.M. London, 1866.

7. *Coleman's General Index to Printed Pedigrees, &c., with an appendix*. London, 1866.

To these may be added, as containing much information on English as well as American Genealogy,

8. *A Handbook of American Genealogy*. By William H. Whitmore. Albany, 1862, 4to.

An admirable work, to which we have no parallel in England.

## THE EAST ANGLIAN TRADESMEN'S TOKENS OF THE 17TH CENTURY.—NO. 4.

(VOL. III, p. 3.)

*Linton.*

93. *O.* John Bitten of—a griffin rampant.  
*R.* Lintin. 1657—same as the obverse.  
 94. *O.* Robert Halls. 1667—a pair of scales.  
*R.* In Linton. Cambridgsh—His Halfe Penny.  
 95. *O.* John Harvy of—a stick of candles.  
*R.* Linton. chandler—J. S. H.  
 96. *O.* Robert Moore—the Grocers' Arms.  
*R.* Of Lynton. 1667—R. M.

[Does this last token refer to Lynton in Devonshire?]

*Littleport.*

97. *O.* Littleport. Ile. of. Ely—a key.  
*R.* ye Overseers of ye Poor—1668.

This is the only town piece I am acquainted with in the series belonging to this county.

*March.*

98. *O.* Rob. Adams of. March—R. A.  
*R.* And Dodington. 1670—a stick of candles.  
 99. *O.* Thomas Harrison—His Half Penny.  
*R.* Of Mairch. 1669—T. M. H.  
 100. *O.* Thomas Harryson In—T. M. H.  
*R.* March Haberdasher—1657.  
 101. *O.* John Ingrom of March—1666.  
*R.* In the Isle of Ely—J. I.  
 102. *O.* Robert Neale In—the Grocers' Arms.  
*R.* March Grocer. 1656—R. N.  
 103. *O.* Thomas Towers—a Tower.  
*R.* In March. 1669—His Half Penny.

*Oakington.*

104. *O.* Ockington. 1657—I. M. G.  
*R.* His Halfe Penny. In three lines across the field.

For a half-penny this is an early date.

*Soham.*

105. *O.* Rob. Crow of Soham. Baker—a Halfe Peny.  
*R.* In Cambridgeshear. 1671—the Bakers' Arms.  
 A variety has "a lion rampant, R. P. C." in place of "a Halfe Peny."  
 106. *O.* Thomas Trowell—a stick of candles.  
*R.* In Soham. 1664—T. M. T.

107. *O.* Mary Kent. of Soham—M. K.  
*R.* John Kent of Hornswell—J. K. 1666.

It is probable that he had a branch establishment in Herringswell, Suffolk, and made one token serve the two places.

The following Soham tokens, unnoticed by Mr. Boyne, are in the collection of Mr. C. Golding, of London.

108. *O.* Hovell Ioanes—the Grocers' Arms.  
*R.* Of Soham. 1654—H. F. I.

This issuer had either a very limited number struck of this token, or otherwise did an extensive business, as we find him in four years afterwards requiring a fresh supply, as then the token appears as :—

Ioanes. Hovell—the Grocers' Arms.  
Of. Soham. 1658—H. F. I.

The die-sinker misread his name, it was Joanes, as the surname initial is on both I.

109. *O.* Nathaniell. Stearne—the Grocers' Arms.  
*R.* Of. Soham. 1667—N. G. S.

*Swaffham Bulbeck.*

110. *O.* William Coe of—a woolpack.  
*R.* Swaffham Bulbeck—W. C.

*Swasey.*

111. *O.* William Bvrten—W. S. B.  
*R.* At Swasey. 1656—W. S. B.

*Thorney.*

112. *O.* Edward Taylor—the Bakers' Arms.  
*R.* In Thorney Abby—E. T.

*West Wratting.*

113. *O.* Edward Crandfield—the Grocers' Arms.  
*R.* Weste. Ratinge—E. D. C.

One of Crandfield's tokens is in Mr. Golding's collection.

*Whittlesey.*

114. *O.* Thomas Davie 1668—the Grocers' Arms.  
*R.* Of Whittlesey—His Half Penny.—T. E. D.  
115. *O.* Thomas Davie of—W. D.  
*R.* Whittlesey 1668—W. D.  
116. *O.* John Eades—the Bakers' Arms.  
*R.* Of Whittlesey. 1657—J. E.  
117. *O.* Robert Ives. 1667—a woolcomb.  
*R.* Of Whittlesey—R. I. I.

A variety is without date, and the woolcomb drawn incorrectly. A much worn token in the collection at the Wisbech Museum, appears to read :—

118. *O.* Silvester. Ives—a woolcomb.  
*R.* In. Whittlessey—S. E. I.

There is some doubt of this token, but it is not one of Robert Ives (as described), and the initials are perfect and certainly only a few letters imperfect.

119. *O.* George Lambe—the Grocers' Arms.  
*R.* Of Whittlesey—G. L.  
 120. *O.* William Searle—the Grocers' Arms.  
*R.* Of Whittlesey—W. S.

*Wilbraham.*

121. *O.* John Tvrner. In—1666.  
*R.* Little Wilbram—J. S. T.

*Wisbech.*

122. *O.* John Bellamy. 1667—the Grocers' Arms.  
*R.* Of Wisbiche Grocer—His Half Penny.—J. J. B.  
 123. *O.* John Bellamy—the Grocers' Arms.  
*R.* In Wisbich. 1667—J. J. B.

He served the office of Town Bailiff in 1682; and the family is still extant at Wisbech. A variety has the date 1665.

124. *O.* Henry Coldwell. 1668—the Haberdashers' Arms.  
*R.* In Wisbidge. Habadasher—His Half Penny.

A Rev. William Coldwell was Vicar of this town from 1651 to 1702. "Mr. Coldwell, of Wisbech," was one of the ministers nominated in the ordinance of the Lord Protector Cromwell, dated 29th August, 1654, for the examination and ejection of scandalous, ignorant, and insufficient Ministers and School Masters.

125. *O.* John Finch—the Grocers' Arms.  
*R.* Of Wisbech—J. F.

A variety has the date 1666.

126. *O.* Richard Harrison—the Haberdashers' Arms.  
*R.* Of Wisbich. 1664—R. H.

Richard Harrison, grocer, of Wisbech, was a member of the corporation, and town Bailiff, in 1675. He made for a series of years the entries in the books of the Corporation, from which we extract the following:—"November 20th, 1668. The Town Balife is ordered to lay oute five or ten pounds in farthings, at London, having them made with the towne armes upon them."

"February 28th, 1669. Itt is this day ordred that the Towne Ballif and Mr. Richard Harrison, dose lay oute twenty pound in half-pennys, with thes motto upon one side:—'A WISBEACH HALFE PENY,' and on the other side, the effiges of the towne seal, with the date of the year." These Wisbech town pieces are not known to exist. It is very probable they were never issued.

127. *O.* John Moyes. 1664—the Grocers Arms.  
*R.* In Wisbech—J. E. M.  
 128. *O.* Anthony Rachell—a cog wheel.  
*R.* In Wisbeche. 1667—A. E. R.  
 129. *O.* Henry Tvnard of—The Bakers' Arms.  
*R.* Wisbitch. 1657—H. I. T.

A variety dated 1662, reads "Tinard," and another is dated 1663.

JUSTIN SIMPSON.

## CHRISTIAN NAMES AND SURNAMES.

Several of the Registers of Wills proved in the Consistory Court of Norwich, during the 15th century, have an index not of the surnames but of the christian names of the testators. A similar index is in existence for the Norfolk Archdeaconry Court, from 1459 to 1550, shewing that surnames in the 15th century, and early part of the 16th century, were in so unsettled a state that it was useless to index them; or that at least it was more useful to index the christian names, which were not changeable. The following table of over one thousand eight hundred names is compiled from the indices to three registers bearing date from 1459 to 1472. There can be no doubt that a more extensive list would disclose a greater variety of names, but the end I had proposed was to shew those which were most common rather than to discover the rarer names, or any curiosities of nomenclature which may have existed in the middle ages. By itself this list is of little or no use, but it will be well if some of your correspondents will send similar lists of names compiled from documents of different periods, for if they do not furnish data from which any very important deductions may be drawn, they will at least not be without interest.

## EXTRANEUS:

Adam, 17	Eleanor, 1	Martyn, 1
Agatha, 1	Elizabeth, 5	Matilda, 8
Agnes or Anya, 29	Emma, 8	Mercantunt, 1
Alan, 7	Frances (a man), 1	Michael, 1
Alexander, 5	Geoffrey, 26	Nicholas, 36
Alys, 43	George, 4	Olive, 1
Andrew, 6	Gilbert, 1	Osbert, 1
Anne, 2	Godfrey, 1	Peter, 18
Anabel, 1	Gregory, 3	Petronill, 1
Anastasia, 1	Gwydo, 2	Philip, 2
Arnold, 1	Helen, 2	Plesance, 1
Augustine, 1	Helias, 1	Ralph, 3
Avice, 4	Henry, 30	Reginald or Reynolde, 8
Bartholomew, 4	Hugh, 9	Richard, 97
Batylda, 1	James, 8	Robert, 141
Beatrice, 6	Joan, 16	Roger, 23
Benedict, 1	John, 505*	Rosa, 3
Blythe, 1	Jdonia, 2	Sarah, 2
Cecily, 9	Ingram, 1	Sabina, 1
Clare, 1	Isabella, 18	Seina, 1
Clement, 4	Katherine, 44	Semanus, 1
Collect or Collet, 1	Laurence, 4	Simon, 29
Constantyn, 1	Leticie, 3	Sibill, 1
Cristian, 5	Lewis, 1	Stephen, 10
Dionissa or Dionise, 4	Lucy, 1	Thomas, 244
Edmund, 36	Mabel, 1	Walter, 21
Edward, 1	Margaret, 45	William, 218
Ele, 1	Margery, 8	
Elen or Elynne, 7	Marion and Manoria, 4	

\* It will be noted that the Johns number nearly one third of the male names. There were frequently several in the same family, see vol. i, p. 380, Clement Calkes' three sons all baptized John. John Brigge, Rector of Rollesby, in his will dated 1487, leaves legacies to three persons named John Brigge, two of whom at least were brothers; he distinguishes them as long John, half John, and John Brigge, junior.

## EXTRACTS FROM CHURCHWARDENS' BOOKS.—NO. 14.

*Bungay St. Mary (continued from vol. III, p. 21).*

1570

Jtm. paid to Richarde Kyng for takyn downe  
the font cover, whch was com'aundyd by the com'-  
issarye to be had away

xxijd.

Jtm. paid for charge at Norwiche to the  
clarke at the byshop's court, for Discharge the  
appearance of ye churchwardens who were So'-  
monyd by the Deane to make certificat of ye  
pullyn down of the font cover, & other thyngs,  
com'aundyd by ye com'issary

vijd.

Jt. paid to Richard Kyng for a frame for the  
x com'andemts and for wrting of the same

iijs. iiijd.

Jtm. for nayling & tackyng of it vnto the  
wall

jd.

Jtm. paid to Smalls of Ershm for drawyng ye  
Ryver in west meddowe, wichich was verie noy-  
full

iijs. iiijd.

Jtm. paid to the said Molle for a Borde for  
Jncluding the vice\* goyng vp to the organes, &  
for steyns for the church gates

vd.

Jtm. paid to Robt. Spillyng for a newe go-  
geon for the iiijth belle

xvijd.

Jtm. paid to the same for a newe Drafft, &  
for righten the old drafte for the Bells

iijd.

Jtm. paid to the same for a cryngle † for the  
Belle

jd.

Jtm. paied rent to Bungaye priorie for the  
grownde that the Steepull ys bylded vpon

iijd.

The following memorandum occurs a few pages further on, viz :—

" Md ther remayneth in Barres of yron whch were taken from the church  
grats, one and fforty barres of Dyusse wayght."

And in the margin opposite is—

" Ao 1565, in the torche house in ye churche."

Another Mem. also occurs, viz :—

" For the Belle." " Md the pewter in An' d'm m.cccc.lxvj., was in  
the custody of Thomas Curteys, and yt was gyuen to the Inh'it of the  
pishe of the Trynyte in Bu'gaye, Aforsaid, beyng fyrst wayted at Edward  
filds, and contaynyd in waight ffiften pounds of pewter."

*Bungay.*

GRAY. B. BAKER.

\* i.e. Stairs.

† Wright, in his *Dictionary*, calls Cringle a withe or rope for fastening a gate with.

## GOLD RELIQUARY FOUND AT CLARE, SUFFOLK.

The following notes on a precious relic, found at Clare Castle, in Suffolk, in December, 1865, deserve to find a place in the enduring pages of the *East Anglian*. The first is from the pen of the Rev. J. C. Coleman, Vicar of Clare; and the second is from a communication to the papers by the Rev. Stephen Jenner, the proprietor of the Castle.

I. As some workmen in the employment of Mr. Holt, contractor, were digging in the Castle Bailey, Clare, Suffolk, in a place known as the Lady's Walk, they turned up one of the most interesting relics yet found in this vicinity. It is a gold cross attached to about two feet of ornamental gold chain. The cross is about an inch and a half long, with a large pearl at each intersection of the upright and transverse pieces. On the upper side of the cross is a representation of the Saviour, as crucified, with the glory and the crown of thorns about his head. On the scroll over him, are the letters I. N. R. I., for "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews." The same letters occur, one on each limb of the cross, surrounded by ornamental tracery. When a small pin is removed, a portion of the upper side of the cross may be taken off; in the cavity beneath is a small piece of wood and a minute fragment, apparently of granite. Very probably the wood is a supposed fragment of the "true cross," and the pebble a memorial from some sacred locality in the Holy Land. In the year 1378, Philippa, Countess of March, bequeathed to her son, Edmond, a piece of the true cross, charging him on her blessing to keep it carefully. The same Edmond, Earl of March, and Lord of Clare, bequeathed to Wygmore Abbey, "a cross of gold set with stones, with a relic of the true cross." In many ancient wills we meet with similar bequests. Thomas de Vere, Earl of Oxford, in his will dated August 1st, 1371, bequeaths to Maud his wife, all his reliques then in his own keeping, and "a cross made of the very wood of Christ's cross." In the inventory of Crown Jewels, 3 Edward III, we find mention of a little linen bag or purse, containing the keys of the cross, "Gneyth," which was kept in the chapel of the Tower of London. This, we are told, was a piece of the wood of the cross, which the Welsh called *Crosse neyt*, and for the recovery of which, when brought to him at Conway, King Edward bestowed on the finders important privileges by way of reward. The Chronicler of Tewkesbury Abbey records with great satisfaction, that in the year 1235, H. F. Tancintune gave to the Abbey Church the reliques which his father had collected, viz., "some bones, blood, flesh, and hair of several Saints, a piece of the stake or beam to which the cross was fastened, a bit of stone from Mount Calvary, and another from the Saviour's Sepulchre." The cross and chain are in excellent preservation.

II. The discovery was a matter of great interest and curiosity to the lovers of antiquity throughout the kingdom, and Mr. Stephen Jenner, the owner of Castle Bailey, forwarded particulars of the discovery to her Majesty's Treasury, whereupon her Majesty was pleased to express a desire to possess the curious relic. Accordingly it was delivered to the Treasury, and the Queen expressing a wish for the true history of this curious relic to be searched out, the Secretary of the Treasury has favoured Mr. Jenner with the following very interesting particulars of the re-

search. There is strong reason for believing that the cross formed at one time a part of the royal collection of jewels belonging to King Edward III., for it is recorded that he had among his jewels, kept for safe preservation in the Tower of London, "un croys d'or double overe de driffure que est de la croys Jhesu Crist, et ne puit estre preise,"—"a cross of gold which represents the cross of Jesus Christ, set with pearls, and cannot be valued." This description exactly answers to the cross found at Clare, which has four large pearls, one on each transverse section of the cross, while the cross itself, with the figure of our Saviour upon it, was most beautifully foliated, and the chain, about two feet long, was of the richest description. How this precious royal jewel came to be found in the ruins of Clare Castle is thus accounted for:—It was the common practice of our sovereigns, in former ages, to bestow on their children and grandchildren, as wedding gifts, rare jewels and reliques; and as Edward the III.'s granddaughter Phillipa was married to Edmund Mortimer, the Lord of Clare, and upon her marriage came to reside at the Castle, she in all probability, had this jewel given to her on the occasion, and it was by her taken to the Castle, where it got lost. What confirms this history, almost beyond all doubt, is the fact that this particular jewel, before described in old French, disappeared from that very time from the numerous inventories which are extant of the royal jewels. Thus this once royal jewel, which has been buried at Clare, lost for 500 years, has once more come into royal possession in the person of our beloved Queen. The finder of this curiosity was a poor lad of Clare, named Walter Lorking, and Her Majesty has been pleased to forward him a donation of three pounds.

Will any one learned in Old French, explain the exact meaning of the words *overe le driffure*? and refer me to the precise inventory from which this item is taken?—L.

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EAST ANGLIAN FOLK-LORE (VOL. III., P. 27.)

Calling at a cottage in a retired lane in the parish of Carlton Colville, near this town, a few weeks since, I saw on the chimney-piece what appeared to be a fine specimen of fossil echinus, though sadly disfigured by the successive coats of black lead used to give it a polish. Asking permission to look at it, I was informed that it had been found on the land some twenty years before; that it was "a Fairy Loaf"; and that whoever had one of these loaves in the house would never want for bread. Is this opinion a popular one; or confined to the locality in which I heard it.—E., Lowestoft.

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QUERIES.

*Pugh, Rev. Mr. . . . .*, Vicar of Birling, in Kent, died December 15th, 1743, ætat. 80. He was born in Merionethshire, in North Wales, &c., &c. (*Gent's. Mag.*, 1744, p. 47.) Can any correspondent furnish his christian name and the places of his officiating at, or was he at one time Curate at Llanfoist, in Monmouthshire, or where can any further account of him be met with.—W.M. PRICE, *Llanfoist, Abergavenny*.

## ANNE, THE LADY VAUGHAN, 1672.

On the north wall of the chancel in the old church at Carmarthen, in South Wales, is a mural monument with the following inscription. Can any of your readers oblige me with information as to the lady to whom it refers?

Kind reader, underneath doth lie  
 Choice Elixir of mortalitie ;  
 By carefull Providence, great wealth did store  
 For her relations and the poore.  
 In Essex born, but spent her gainfull daies  
 In Terra cold, to her eternal prayse ;  
 Where by her loanes, in spite of adverse fates,  
 She did preserve men's persons and estates.  
 A great exemplar to our nation,  
 Her to imitate in life and action ;  
 Would you then know who was this good woman,  
 'Twas virtuous Anne, the lady Vaughan.  
 She died August 16th, 1672,  
 Being about 84 years.

D.

## LAWRENCE WASHINGTON, RECTOR OF PURLEIGH, ESSEX.

From a pamphlet recently published at Boston, U. S.—and which is a reprint of an article that appeared both in the London *Herald* and *Genealogist*, and the Boston *Heraldic Journal*, and is entitled, *A Preliminary investigation of the alleged Ancestry of George Washington*, first President of the United States, by Jos. Lemuel Chester—I learn that the Laurence Washington, who was sequestered from the Rectory of Purleigh, in 1641, (See Davids' *Annals of Evangelical Nonconformity in the County of Essex*, p. 246; Walker's *Suff. of Clergy*, part ii, p. 395) was the 5th son of Laurence Washington, of Sulgrave, co. Northampton, entered Brazenose, Oxford circ. 1619, matriculated November, 1621, æt. 19; took his B.A. 1623, became fellow of his college 1624, was lecturer from 1627 to 1632 inclusive, and one of the proctors of the University, in 1631. Walker says, that after his sequestration he was "permitted to have and continue upon a living in these parts; but it was such a poor and miserable one, that it was always with difficulty that any one was persuaded to accept of it."—Any information about this Washington would be very acceptable. I am especially anxious to know what was "the living" of which Walker speaks, and when, and under what circumstances the sequestered rector possessed and avoided it. As John Head, formerly of Trosley, co. Kent (*Newcourt's Repertorium*, ii, 476), according to the MS. Returns for that period, now preserved at Lambeth (see also Morant's *Essex*, i, 348), was presented by Richard Horsmanden, of Goodhurst, co. Kent, 2nd March, 1658, on the death of William Bragge, it should appear that Washington was then dead, as the living had then returned to the patron.

D.